

## **LISTING OF THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A stratospheric flying object for use in a stratosphere, comprising:

a flying object body;

a platform unit mounted on said flying object body and capable of being positioned relative to the flying object; and

control means for detecting an azimuthal angle of said platform unit in a horizontal plane and actuating said platform unit to face in a constant direction at all times within said horizontal plane.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The stratospheric flying object according to claim 1, ~~for being~~ wherein the flying object is structured to be placed at a constant location and turned about the constant location when in operation.

3. **(Original)** The stratospheric flying object according to claim 1, further comprising a mount suspended from said flying object body, said platform unit being supported on said mount and rotatable with respect to said mount.

4. **(Original)** The stratospheric flying object according to claim 3, wherein said mount and said platform unit can be stored in said flying object body.

5. **(Original)** The stratospheric flying object according to claim 1, wherein said control means detects a tilt of said platform unit with respect to said horizontal plane and actuates said platform unit to compensate for the detected tilt.

6. **(Original)** The stratospheric flying object according to claim 5, wherein said control means comprises:

a rotational angle detector for detecting said azimuthal angle and said tilt of said platform unit;

an angular displacement calculator for calculating angular displacements of said platform unit about respective axes thereof based on a detection result by said rotational angle detector; and

an actuator for rotating said platform unit to change an attitude thereof based on the calculated angular displacements.

**7. (Original)** The stratospheric flying object according to claim 1, further comprising a communication device mounted on said platform unit for communications with another stratospheric flying object.

**8. (Original)** The stratospheric flying object according to claim 1, further comprising at least one of a first communication device mounted on said platform unit for communications with a station on the earth's surface and a second communication device mounted on said platform unit for communications with an artificial satellite.

**9. (New)** A stratospheric flying object for use in a stratosphere, comprising:  
a flying object body;  
a platform unit mounted on said flying object body; and  
control means for detecting an azimuthal angle of said platform unit in a horizontal plane, detecting a tilt of said platform unit with respect to said horizontal plane, actuating said platform unit to face in a constant direction at all times within said horizontal plane and actuating said platform unit to compensate for the detected tilt,

wherein said control means comprises:

a rotational angle detector for detecting said azimuthal angle and said tilt of said platform unit;

an angular displacement calculator for calculating angular displacements of said platform unit about respective axes thereof based on a detection result by said rotational angle detector; and

an actuator for rotating said platform unit to change an attitude thereof based on the calculated angular displacements.

**10. (New)** The stratospheric flying object according to claim 9, for being placed at a constant location and turned about the constant location when in operation.

**11. (New)** The stratospheric flying object according to claim 9, further comprising a mount suspended from said flying object body, said platform unit being supported on said mount and rotatable with respect to said mount.

**12. (New)** The stratospheric flying object according to claim 11, wherein said mount and said platform unit can be stored in said flying object body.

**13. (New)** The stratospheric flying object according to claim 9, further comprising a communication device mounted on said platform unit for communications with another stratospheric flying object.

**14. (New)** The stratospheric flying object according to claim 9, further comprising at least one of a first communication device mounted on said platform unit for communications with a station on the earth's surface and a second communication device mounted on said platform unit for communications with an artificial satellite.